

Socioeconomic Study of Reefs in Southeast Florida - Monroe County

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This study used extensive survey research over the twelve-month period from June 2000 to May 2001 to measure the economic contribution and the use values of artificial and natural reefs to the economies and the reef users of southeast Florida.

This study was co-funded by the four southeast Florida counties (Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In all of southeast Florida,



residents and visitors spent 28.3 million person-days using artificial and natural reefs during the 12-month period. Of this amount, residents and visitors spent about 5.46 million person-days using the reefs in Monroe County, or about 18 percent of the regional total. A person-day is one person participating in an activity for a portion or all of a day.

Artificial and Natural Reef Use in Millions of Person-Days Monroe County, Florida - June 2000 to May 2001			
Reef Use by Reef Type	Artificial Reefs	Natural Reefs	All Reefs
	1.58	3.88	5.46
Reef Use by User Type	Residents	Visitors	All Users
	3.38	2.08	5.46
Reef Use by Recreation Type	Snorkeling	SCUBA Diving	Fishing
	1.87	0.89	2.62

Reef-related expenditures generated \$140 million in income to Monroe County over the 12-month period and created almost 10,000 jobs.

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Economic Contribution of Reefs to Monroe County , FL June 2000 to May 2001 (Generated from Reef Related Expenditures)		
Sales (\$ million)	Income (\$ million)	Employment (FT and PT Jobs)
504	140	10,000

When willingness to pay for each type of reef is considered separately, natural reef users are willing to pay \$57.5 million per year to maintain the natural reefs in Monroe County. Artificial reef users are willing to pay \$9.75 million per year to maintain the existing artificial reefs and \$2.2 million per year to add new artificial reefs to the Monroe County system.

When both types of reefs are considered together, willingness to pay is reduced to \$52 million for maintaining existing reefs in their existing condition. This is significantly less than the value of the reefs considered separately.

Annual User Value to Maintain Reefs in Their Existing Condition - Monroe County (Million Dollars)		
Artificial Reefs	Natural Reefs	All Reefs
9.75	57.49	51.78

A majority of Monroe County Resident reef users would support “no take” zones on 20 percent of the natural reef system.

